

Message Text

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TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: RECENT INCIDENTS AGAINST SOVIET PERFORMING ARTISTS
IN US

REF: (A) STATE 30747; (B) STATE 26940; (C) MOSCOW 1524

1. PAST FEW WEEKS HAVE SEEN SUDDEN UPSURGE IN DISRUPTIVE
INCIDENTS AGAINST SOVIET PERFORMERS IN US. UNLIKE INCI-
DENTS IN PAST YEARS, RECENT DISRUPTIONS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED
AGAINST SOLOISTS RATHER THAN LARGE PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS.
JANUARY 27 INCIDENT AGAINST SEVIDOV AT CARNEGIE HALL (REFS
B AND C) WAS FOLLOWED BY TWO OTHERS AT SAME HALL.

2. DURING FEBRUARY 5 CONCERT BY PIANIST LAZAR BERMAN WITH
NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY, DEMONSTRATORS TWICE DISTRACTED
AUDIENCE WITH HORN AND SHOUTING, BUT PERFORMERS CONTINUED
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CONCERT WITHOUT INTERRUPTION. TO MAKE AMENDS FOR THIS BAD

BEHAVIOR, AUDIENCE GAVE BERMAN RISING OVATION AND VOLLEY OF CHEERS AT END OF EACH NUMBER.

3. DURING FEBRUARY 10 CONCERT BY VIOLINIST VIKTOR TRETYAKOV AND PIANIST MIKHAIL YEROKHIN, DEMONSTRATORS THREW EGGS AND PLASTIC CONTAINERS OF RED PAINT AS PERFORMERS LEFT STAGE AT END OF FIRST PART OF CONCERT. YEROKHIN'S TROUSERS WERE SPATTERED BY PAINT AS WERE SIX MEMBERS OF AUDIENCE. THREE WOMEN AND A MAN WHO SAID THEY WERE MEMBERS OF JDL WERE ARRESTED. ORDER WAS RESTORED WITHIN MINUTES AND CONCERT CONTINUED WITHOUT FURTHER INTERRUPTION.

4. SOVIET EMBASSY FORMALLY PROTESTED ONLY THE SEVIDOV INCIDENT, BUT CULTURAL COUNSELOR CALLED DEPARTMENT FEBRUARY 11 TO SAY AMBASSADOR HAD ASKED HIM TO BRING TRETYAKOV INCIDENT TO OUR ATTENTION. DEPARTMENT HAS ANSWERED SOVIET PROTEST NOTE (REF B) AND IS POUCHING YOU COPIES OF REPLY.

5. BECAUSE OF RISING NUMBER OF INCIDENTS, DEPARTMENT IS TAKING THE PRECAUTION OF DESIGNATING SOLOISTS, AS WELL AS LARGE PAC'S, AS OFFICIAL GUESTS UNDER PL 92-539. THIS DESIGNATION ENABLES FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO BECOME INVOLVED IN SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AND INCREASES PENALTIES FOR ACTS OR THREATS OF VIOLENCE.

6. FYI. IMPRESARIO SPONSORING TRETYAKOV TOUR INFORMED DEPARTMENT FEBRUARY 12 THAT HE HAD RECEIVED UNSIGNED TELEGRAM WARNING THAT TRETYAKOV WILL NOT BE RECEIVED IN PEACE IF HE PERFORMS AS SCHEDULED IN COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, FEBRUARY 20. DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMED LOCAL AND FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF THIS THREAT AND HAS PREPARED LETTER TO MAYOR OF COLUMBIA ASKING FOR HIS COOPERATION IN PREVENTING HARMFUL INCIDENTS. INGERSOLL

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